

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicant(s):</b>	Parris S. Wellman, et al.	<b>Examiner:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Serial No:</b>	To be assigned	<b>Art Unit:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filed:</b>	Herewith	<b>Docket:</b>	14641Z (ETH-1559CONT)
<b>For:</b>	SURGICAL DEVICE FOR CLAMPING, LIGATING, AND SEVERING TISSUE	<b>Dated:</b>	July 8, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,403,312, dated April 4, 1995, issued to Yates et al.;
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,573,535, dated November 12, 1996, issued to Viklund;
3. U.S. Patent No. US 6,464,702 B2, dated October 15, 2002, issued to Schulze et al.;

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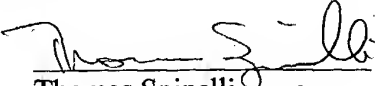
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 8, 2003.

Dated: July 8, 2003


  
Thomas Spinelli

4. U.S. Patent No. US 6,193,653 B1, dated February 27, 2001, issued to Evans et al.;
5. U.S. Patent No. 6,019,771, dated February 1, 2000, issued to Bennett et al.;
6. U.S. Patent No. 6,110,170, dated August 29, 2000, issued to Taylor et al.;  
and
7. U.S. Patent No. US 2003/0040744 A1, dated February 27, 2003, issued to Latterell et al.

Applicants are submitting a copy of reference 7. Copies of references 1-6 are not being submitted herewith as references 1 and 2 were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed November 28, 2001 and references 3-6 were previously cited by the Examiner in connection with parent serial number 09/967,207 filed on September 28, 2001.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number (Optional) <b>14641Z (ETH-1559/CONT)</b>	Application Number <b>To be assigned</b>
	Applicant(s) <b>Parris S. Wellman, et al.</b>	
	Filing Date <b>Herewith</b>	Group Art Unit <b>Unassigned</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,403,312	4/4/95	Yates et al.			
		5,573,535	11/12/1996	Viklund			
		US 6,464,702 B2	10/15/2002	Schulze et al.			
		US 6,193,653 B1	2/27/2001	Evans et al.			
		6,019,771	2/1/2000	Bennett et al.			
		6,110,170	8/29/2000	Taylor et al.			
		US 2003/0040744 A1	2/27/2003	Latterell et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.